

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 211749Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3111

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 6735

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG ILO

SUBJECT: ILO-APOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

PASS COMMERCE AND LABOR

REF: STATE 246876

1. CHARGE AND LABATT CALLED ON BLANCHARD 1500 HOURS DEC 21
TO DISCUSS POINTS IN REFTEL. BLANCHARD WAS INFORMED THAT USG HAS
NOT YET MADE DECISION ON DG. BLANCHARD MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS
ON SPECIFIC POINTS IN REFTEL.

A. REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION APPOINT STRONG AMERICAN GIVE
DIRECTION TO FINANCE, PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AREAS
UNDER NEW STRUCTURE THAT HE ENVISAGES. WANTS USG TO
HELP HIM FIND MOST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL. HE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE
AT LEAST THREE SOLID CANDIDATES TO DISCUSS AND CHOOSE FROM.
HE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT USG BOTH IN TERMS OF (1) CANDIDATE
AND (2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF POSITION.

B. HE WOULD, WITHOUT RESERVATION, REINFORCE ILO ACTIVITIES
CONCERNED WITH TRIPARTITISM. HE FIRMLY BELIEVES FREE EMPLOYER
AND WORKER ORGANIZATIONS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY OF
TRIPARTITISM. HE REFERRED TO HIS REPLY TO DEBATE AT AFRICAN
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REGIONAL CONFERENCE WHERE HE SUPORTED ILO ACTION TO STRENGTHEN
WORKER AND EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.

C. BALNCHARD TOTALLY ACCEPTS PRIORITY PLANNING, BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD NEED HELP FROM USG AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED MEMBERS TO "UNLOAD THE BOAT." HE IS DISTRESSED AT ILO TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING. NEXT LONG TERM PLAN WILL CONCENTRATE ON SEVEN AREAS OF ILO INTEREST; I.E. EMPLOYMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES, INCOME DISTRIBUTION, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, CONDITIONS OF WORK, MIGRANT WORKERS AND SOCIAL SECURITY. (LONG TERM PLAN SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY JAN. 10.)

D. HE REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO ALL POINTS UNDER THIS ITEM, AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR WIDESPREAD, INFORMAL AND INTIMATE DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL DECISIONS. ON PROGRAM PLANNING HE WAS APPALLED AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED "LIFELESSNESS" OF LONG TERM PLAN AND ATTRIBUTED THAT CONDITION IN LARGE PART TO ITS DEVELOPMENT ALMOST TOTALLY WITHIN THE BUREAUCRATIC CONFINES OF ILO HEADQUARTERS.

E. HE SUPORTS IDEA OF GREATER ATTENTION TO PROGRAM AND BUDGET AT CONFERENCE. WOULD CONSIDER SPECIAL PLENARY SITTINGS OR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE. HE KNOWS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CAST THE DG REPORT IN A FORM THAT WILL ENCOURAGE PROGRAM DISCUSSION IN ORDER TO DAMPEN POLITICAL DISCUSSION.

F. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE STANDARD, BUT HE WILL NEED THE BACKING OF A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP TO BE SUCCESSFUL. HE PROFESSES TO ABHOR THE DISTORTED REASONING BY WHICH SOME ILO MEMBERS HAVE EVALUATED THE APPLICATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS.

2. COMMENT. BLANCHARD KNEW THE ANSWERS THAT WE WANTED AND HE GAVE THEM TO US. HE IS AN AMBITIOUS MAN AND HIS PERFORMANCE WAS IN LARGE PART POLITICALLY SELF-SERVING. HOWEVER, IN THE MISSIONS VIEW HE IS INTELLECTUALLY HONEST AND HAS BEEN DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY THE EVENTS OF THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS. HAVING LIVED THROUGH THE DEBACLE THAT JENKS WROUGHT, HE IS NOT KILEY TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES. IF ELECTED BLANCHARD WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE FORM MANY SIDES AND WILL MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL NOT ALWAYS PLEASE THE UNITED STATES, BUT HE WILL BE DETERMINED TO PREVENT US/ILO RELATIONS FROM DETERIORATING TO THE LEVEL THAT
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THEY DID UNDER HIS PREDECESSOR.BASSIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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